

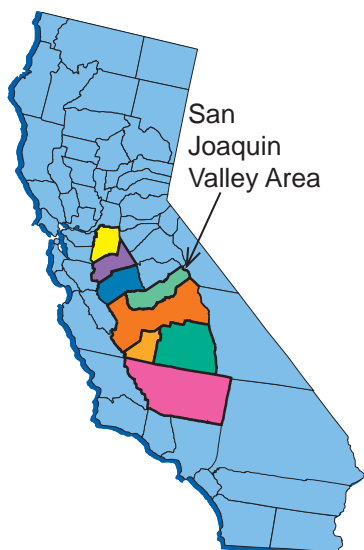


CALIFORNIA

# Dairy Information

B U L L E T I N

A publication serving the dairy industry for over 63 years



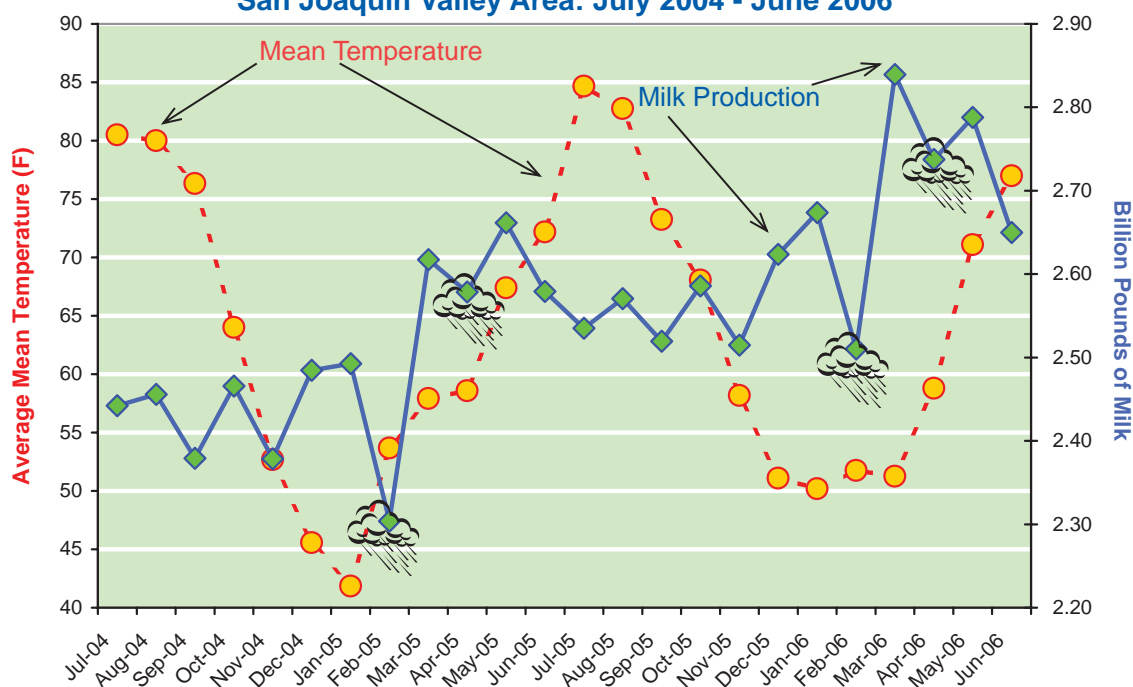
## California's San Joaquin Valley ... Milk Production, Temperature, & Rainfall

The San Joaquin Valley is home to some of California's highest milk producing dairy counties. The area consists of eight counties: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Kern, and Tulare. Together, these counties account for 84% of California's milk production, more than 2.6 billion pounds of milk per month, or approximately 17% of the nation's monthly milk production.

The graph below shows the effect of temperature on milk production in the San Joaquin Valley. Note that when temperatures are on the rise, milk production tends to be lower, but when temperatures begin to fall, milk production increases. Also, the rain clouds indicate the highest rainfall during this 24-month period, notice the decrease in milk production during these high rainfall months.

Note: June 2006 was already showing rising temperatures and slowed production (see chart). In mid-to-late July, a record-setting heat wave coupled with high humidity caused a tremendous fall in production and an increase in cow deaths due to heat-related causes. Not only did the heat have an immediate effect on milk production, but it is questionable whether or not the lactating cows will come back to the same level of production before experiencing this high heat period.

Comparing Average Mean Temperature with Average Milk Production  
San Joaquin Valley Area: July 2004 - June 2006



Sources: USDA California Agricultural Statistics Service, CDFA Dairy Marketing Branch  
Temperature and Rainfall data taken from monthly averages of the following areas: Stockton, Fresno, Bakersfield. Average milk production data included the eight San Joaquin Valley counties listed above.

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